

CLAIM LISTING:

This Claim Listing reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. However, because the Claim Listing is intended merely as a replacement for the Claim Listing already presented in applicant's Response to Office Action dated March 31, 2008, the claim designators "New" and "Withdrawn – new" indicate the status of the claims relative to the claims presented in applicant's preceding Response to Office Action, which was dated October 15, 2007.

In brief, the present Claim Listing (1) cancels all pending claims (claims 1–28, 31–35, 50, and 51), without prejudice, (2) adds new claims 52–74, and (3) provisionally withdraws claims 56, 66, and 73 from consideration, relative to the Claim Listing dated October 15, 2007.

1.–51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

selecting a bone plate including a wider head portion connected to a narrower body portion, the bone plate defining a long axis and a longitudinal slot extending along the long axis, the bone plate also defining a plurality of openings disposed in the head portion and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the longitudinal slot and the plurality of openings and extending transversely to the long axis; and

attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the longitudinal slot, the plurality of openings, and the transverse slot.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate including a transverse slot that extends along an arcuate path.

54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the plurality of openings are arrayed transversely to the long axis.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the longitudinal slot and the transverse slot are a first pair of slots, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the head portion defines a second pair of slots, and wherein the second pair of slots extend transversely to one another.

56. (Withdrawn – new) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is about twice the width.

57. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.

58. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising a step of selecting a bone having at least one discontinuity defining first and second portions of the bone, wherein the step of attaching includes (a) a step of placing a fastener into the first portion of the bone from the transverse slot, (b) a step of attaching the second portion of the bone to the bone plate using one or more fasteners received in one or more of the plurality of openings, (c) a step of adjusting an alignment of the first and second portions of the bone by relative movement of the bone plate and the first portion, the relative movement repositioning the fastener along the transverse slot while the bone plate is attached to the second portion of the bone, and (d) a step of fixing the alignment of the first and second portions of the bone using the bone plate after the step of adjusting.

59. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising a step of attaching a handle to the bone plate.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the step of attaching a handle includes a step of disposing the handle in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising a step of disconnecting the handle from the bone plate.

62. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

selecting a bone plate defining a long axis and a longitudinal slot extending along the long axis, the bone plate also defining a plurality of openings and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the longitudinal slot and the plurality of openings and extending transversely to the long axis along an arcuate path; and

attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the longitudinal slot, the plurality of openings, and the transverse slot.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the longitudinal slot defines a long axis and also defines an orthogonal plane that includes the long axis of the longitudinal slot and that is oriented orthogonally to the longitudinal slot, and wherein the orthogonal plane intersects a central portion of the transverse slot.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the plurality of openings are arrayed transversely to the long axis.

65. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the longitudinal slot and the transverse slot are a first pair of slots, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate defining a second pair of slots, and wherein the second pair of slots extend transversely to one another.

66. (Withdrawn – new) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is at least about twice the width.

67. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.

68. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising a step of selecting a bone having at least one discontinuity defining first and second portions of the bone, wherein the step of attaching includes (a) a step of placing a fastener into the first portion of the bone from the transverse slot, (b) a step of attaching the second portion of the bone to the bone plate using one or more fasteners received in one or more of the plurality of openings, (c) a step of adjusting an alignment of the first and second portions of the bone by relative movement of the bone plate and the first portion, the relative movement repositioning the fastener along the transverse slot while the bone plate is attached to the second portion of the bone, and (d) a step of fixing the alignment of the first and second portions of the bone using the bone plate after the step of adjusting.

69. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising a step of attaching a handle to the bone plate.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of attaching a handle includes a step of disposing the handle in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

71. (New) The method of claim 69, further comprising a step of disconnecting the handle from the bone plate.

72. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:
selecting a bone plate defining a long axis and a first opening, the bone plate also defining a plurality of second openings and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the first opening and the plurality of second openings and extending transversely to the long axis along an arcuate path; and
attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the first opening, the plurality of second openings, and the transverse slot.

73. (Withdrawn – new) The method of claim 72, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is about twice the width.

74. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.